

The following is a table showing the output of coal from the various coalfields, and the comparative increase and decrease, for the years 1944 and 1943, together with the total approximate quantity of coal produced since the mines were opened:—

Name of Coalfield.	Output.		Increase.	Decrease.	Approximate Total Output up to 31st December, 1944.
	1944.	1943			
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
North Auckland .. .. .	85,390	81,828	3,562	..	6,374,654
Waikato (including Taranaki) ..	951,424	939,975	11,449	..	22,043,296
Nelson .. .. .	8,146	8,635	..	489	743,718
Buller .. .. .	463,874	478,439	..	14,565	28,421,687
Reefton .. .. .	126,582	99,173	27,409	..	1,569,496
Grey .. .. .	540,211	578,955	..	38,744	21,036,194
Canterbury .. .. .	38,587	32,329	6,258	..	1,302,187
Otago .. .. .	206,343	194,812	11,531	..	14,927,444
Southland .. .. .	385,413	373,722	11,691	..	9,830,878
Totals .. .. .	2,805,970	2,787,868	71,900	53,798	106,249,554

The output of the several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarized as follows:—

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1944.				Total Output to the End of 1944.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	85,390	982,692	..	1,068,082	58,534,896
Brown .. .. .	951,424	138,839	450,653	1,540,916	41,414,446
Lignite .. .. .	..	17,282	179,690	196,972	6,300,212
Totals for 1944 .. .. .	1,036,814	1,138,813	630,343	2,805,970	106,249,554
Totals for 1943 .. .. .	1,021,803	1,165,202	600,863	2,787,868	103,443,584

TABLE SHOWING THE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF COAL AND OIL SHALE IN THE DOMINION, AND THE QUANTITY OF COAL IMPORTED SINCE 1878.

Year.	Coal and Shale raised in the Dominion.		Coal imported.		
	Tons.	Yearly Increase or Decrease.	Tons.	Increase over Preceding Year.	Decrease below Preceding Year.
Prior to 1940 .. .. .	92,820,069	..	13,920,438	..	..
1940 .. .. .	2,516,099	Inc. 173,460	64,860	..	46,677
1941 .. .. .	2,639,507	Inc. 123,408	78,171	13,311	..
1942 .. .. .	2,680,041	Inc. 40,534	90,865	12,694	..
1943 .. .. .	2,787,868	Inc. 107,827	37,454	..	53,411
1944 .. .. .	2,805,970	Inc. 18,102	..	..	37,454

TABLE SHOWING QUANTITY OF COAL EXPORTED ANNUALLY FROM NEW ZEALAND FROM 1939 TO 1944

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Year.	Quantity. Tons.
1939 .. .. .	43,990	1942 .. .. .	54,700
1940 .. .. .	81,287	1943 .. .. .	42,522
1941 .. .. .	58,179	1944 .. .. .	37,688*

\* 37,171 tons bunkers, value £71,842, and 517 tons cargo, value £1,288.

#### COAL-MINERS' RELIEF FUND

The Coal-miners' Sick and Accident Funds having been abolished as from the 1st April, 1926, and incorporated in the Coal-miners' Relief Fund, all accident-relief payments are now made from the latter fund, which is administered by the Public Trustee.

The rate of interest allowed on the fund was decreased from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent. as from the 1st April, 1933. The interest earned for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1945, was £301, as against £436 for the previous year, while for the same periods the receipts from the ½d. per ton contributions were £5,566 and £6,325 respectively.